

## WE MODERN WOMEN ARE THE MARTYRS TO MODE SAYS ANNA HELD

(Editor's Note—The following spirited attack on modern fashions by a noted actress is reproduced by permission from the April Green Book Album.)

By Anna Held.

The whole tendency of modern fashions is not to make women beautiful, but only to martyr them. Their bodies are tired out with stiff corsets and with the weight of the clothes they wear. When a woman is worn with the burden of her clothes her face is haggard and tired. Modern clothes certainly do not make for beauty.

Modern clothes are absurd. They are uncomfortable and unhygienic. Frequently they are hideous. Yet all women wear them.

I am sure some day some woman will be courageous enough to defy fashion and clever enough to evolve a costume that will be both sensible and becoming.

Men understand the art of dressing much better than women. Do you think a man would get anywhere if he went in high-heeled shoes, holding on to his hat with one hand and holding up his train with the other, with a hatpin sticking into his head on

one side and a hairpin on the other?

I have a lovely dinner gown, all lace and embroidery and chiffon, with four trains! When I go out to get into the motor everything has to wait while I pick up all my trains. I never know where they are. I can't even hold them up because the skirt is so tight.

So I pin them up under my coat and I have to remember to unpin them before I take my coat off, for when they are pinned safely out of the way, the gown is up to my knees.

Big hats are not comfortable. Yet all women wear them. I have worse hats than anybody. We must be in the fashion. We cannot break the laws or outrage the conventions. And to be out of the fashion is equally bad.

The elaborate coiffure a woman wears is a dreadful thing. Masses of puffs and curls pinned on over her own hair. The coiffure must be responsible for many headaches.

And the gowns! The poor women are falling and tumbling around because they cannot move in the tight skirts. They cannot walk. They cannot step up into an automobile.

One hears of many accidents because of these tight skirts. Yet women wear them. It cannot be because they like to be uncomfortable and always in danger. They are afraid to defy the fashion and no one has shown them

